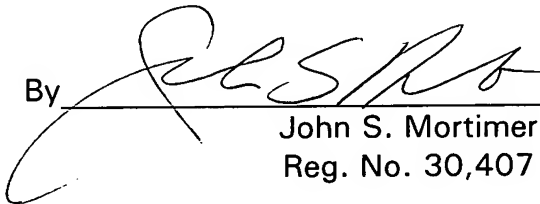


**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, multiple dependencies have been removed from the claims to place the application in proper U.S. form. Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,  
CLARK & MORTIMER

By \_\_\_\_\_  
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January 11, 2005

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